from the shells or fish are given along with hard-shelled snails, the latter are ignored.

Another male maintained on a diet of fish and snail flesh since 24-i-1965 when given hard-shelled snails along with the female from February, 1971, showed no interest in breaking the snails for the first ten days but used to observe the actions of the female kept in the same enclosure. From the 11th day it started breaking and eating the hard-shelled snails in the same manner as the female.

A second female received on 15-ix-1971 breaks and eats hard-shelled snails. All the mongooses are in excellent health on a diet of fish and snails. They refuse to take fruits, roots and nuts.

Prater (1971) in the BOOK OF INDIAN ANIMALS states that 'it is recorded of an animal kept in captivity that it would take hold of any hard object, such as stone or golf ball, and holding it in its forepaws stand up and crash it to the ground, hurling it with great violence between its hind legs,..... The habit is probably an indication of the way in which this mongoose kills and breaks up hard-shelled crabs and molluscs on which it feeds'. Our observations confirm the presumption of Prater (loc. cit.) that this habit of breaking the snails may be the usual feeding habit of this mongoose.

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3. EXTENSION OF RANGE OF THE MONGOOSE, *HERPESTES PALUSTRIS* GHOSE (MAMMALIA: CARNIVORA: VIVERRIDAE), WITH A NOTE ON ITS ENDOPARASITIC NEMATODE

The recently described mongoose, *Herpestes palustris* Ghose from the Salt Lakes, near Calcutta (1965, *Proc. Zool. Soc., Calcutta*, **18** : 173–178) has also now been found at Bhasna, *c.* 47 km. south-east of Diamond Harbour, 24-Parganas district, West Bengal, on 28 September, 1967. This extends the range of the species by some 110 km further to the south.

This mongoose is very common in this locality and is found to feed mainly on fishes and aquatic snails, as it does in the Salt Lakes.

The specimen, an adult ♀, measures: Head and body 300 mm, tail 248 mm, hindfoot 52 mm, ear 23 mm. The number of mammae are 3 pairs (1 abdominal + 2 inguinal).

The specimen was examined for endoparasites. Nothing was found except 2 ♂♂ and 1 ♀ examples of a strongylid nematode worm from the rectum. These worms are of special interest because they constitute the first record of nematode worm from the rectum of an Indian mongoose and exhibit quite different morphological characters than the nemotodes *Pulmostrongylus fengi* Hsü, 1935, known from the lung of the Crabeating Mongoose, *Herpestes urva* (Hodgson), *P. herpestis* (Khera 1956) Yeh 1958, from the pleural cavity of the Small Indian Mongoose, *Herpestes auropunctatus* (Hodgson), *Herpestostrongylus herpestis* Khera, 1956, from the body cavity, lung and gall-bladder of the Common Mongoose, *Herpestes edwardsi* (Geoffroy), and *Arthrocephalus herpestis* Khera, 1956, from the small intestine of the Ruddy Mongoose, *Herpestes smithi* Gray. The specimens also show a great deal of difference from the nematodes, *Rictularia* sp. (= *Diserratosomus mungoosii* Mirza, 1938) and *Spirura marayani* Mirza and Basir, 1938, from the intestine and stomach respectively of *Herpestes mungo* [= *Herpestes edwardsi* (Geoffroy)]. However, of the abovementioned nematode genera known from the mongoose, the present three specimens show strong affinity to the genus *Herpestostrongylus* Khera, 1956. The specimens are currently under study by one of the authors (Y.C.).

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4. NOTES ON THE BARASINGHA, *CERVUS DUVAUCELI BRANDERI*, IN THE KANHA NATIONAL PARK

In former times the southern subspecies of Barasingha, *Cervus duvauceli branderi*, was common in wide areas of Central India. Due to heavy shooting and destruction of the habitat Barasingha has experienced a drastic decline since the last century. In 1938, 3023 animals were counted during a census by the forest department in the Kanha National Park (Mandla Dist., M.P.)

Today the population in Kanha N.P. is reduced to 70 to 80 animals. It is most probably the last remnant surviving of the southern subspecies of Barasingha. Unless adequate protection is provided, this population will reach the point of no-return soon.